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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

New York, N. Y. 10021

October 2, 1966

Professor David Hamburg
Department of Psychiatry
Medical School
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Dave:

I have spent yesterday four hours with your colleague Dr. Shockley. It was outwardly very pleasant, but of course he did not move an inch, perhaps only a micron. He sent me a week ago a package of his "contributions," including his letter of rebuttal to your geneticists letter, and an abstract of his paper to be read before the Academy in North Carolina (a good geographical choice, no doubt). I began by saying that I agree with him in what seems ^{the} most important point, namely that man must be studied, and disagree in everything else. The rest of the time was expended on discussion of his abstract, mostly his arguing that one can calculate the values f_A and f_B , and myself saying that these values are meaningless. Only at the very end he perhaps got the idea that individuals with equal f_A and f_B may have an almost infinite variety of genotypes, and so these values will in no way describe them in any meaningful fashion. He does not understand that a "pure race" need not be homozygous but only genotypically uniform, and has apparently never heard about clones of apogamic plants. He also does not understand that environments need not be identical for individuals with his different f_A 's and f_B 's, and, of course, he feels it is insulting to suggest that an engineer, no matter how eminent, may be unqualified to talk as he does about human genetics. On the whole, I found him a tough customer, but I think he found me as tough (he started trying to get from me quotable statements which he himself was formulating). But we parted on a friendly note. Anyway, my line is that it is a good thing to have "necessary research" done, but he is not the fellow to do the necessary research.

Hoping to see you soon,

As ever,

Theodosius Dobzhansky

TD/ph

DOBZHANSKY